Difficulties being faced by Rohtak Telephone subscribers

1529. SHRI JERLIE E. TARIANG: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that the telephone subscribers in Rohtak are being harassed by excess billing by Rohtak Telephones;

(b) whether it is a fact that telephone connections were disconnected in spite of excess billing and in spite of the fact that the subscribers had requested for disconnection of STD facility: and

(c) whether it is also a fact that the Telephone Department is short of funds to purchase equipments for disconnecting STD facility in Rohtak?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI GIRIDHAR GOMANGO): (a) No, Sir. There is no harrasment to telephone subscribers Rohtak on account of excess billing. The complaints of excess billing are not abnormal.

(b) Telephones are disconnected only for non-payment of telephone bills, after observing codified procedures of the Department. Excess billing complaints and requests for barring STD facility have no bearing on disconnection of telephones.

(c) There is no shortage of funds for purchasing equipment for barring STD facility. GM is taking steps to provide this equipment for those who have asked for STD barring.

Arrears to be recovered by Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited

1530. SHRI JERLIE E. TARIANG: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) what amount of arrears is to be recovered by the Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited from their subscribers;

(b) what is the number of subscribers who are to pay an arrear amount of more than Rs. 50,000/- to the Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited: and

(c) what action Government propose to take against the defaulting subscribers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI GIRIDHAR GOMANGO): The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Twin Tower Project

1531. SHRI SHARAD YADAV:
SHRI VIRENDRA VERMA:

Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Standing Conference on Public Enterprises (SCOPE) is allegedly plagued by corruption charges in the construction of a Rs. 50 crore Twin Tower Project across Yamuna in Delhi; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof stating the outcome of the inquiry, if any, conducted by Government into the corruption charges levelled against SCOPE and the action taken by Government in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI J. VENGAL RAO): (a) and (b) A news item titled SCOPE plagued by corruption appeared in the Hindustan Times dated 26-4-88. The allegation to the effect that the architects for the Twin Tower Project have been given a free hand for creating scope for corruption in the construction of the building is not correct. Overall responsibiilty and control for the project including cost and quality control lies with SCOPE who have appointed a Building Committee for the purpose of project management and the service of NIDC, a public sector organisation have been engaged for providing assistance in this regard. Special test checks have